

A NEW SPECIES OF SENECIO SECTION PALMATINERVII (ASTERACEAE)
FROM DURANGO, MEXICO

B. L. Turner

Department of Botany, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712

Recent collections from Durango, Mexico, sent to the author for identification have revealed the following novelty.

Senecio gonzalezae B. L. Turner, sp. nov.

Senecio sundbergii accedens sed foliis minoribus, petidis brevioribus, laminis latioribus, scapis longioribus, carinatis phyllariorum validioribus.

Perennial herb to 60 cm high. Stems terete, reddish, sparsely tomentulose, arising from short, knobby, densely tomentose, rhizomes. Leaves 6-8, opposite, clustered near the base of stem; petioles 2-4 cm long, pilose with long multiseptate hairs; blades subpalmately veined, 5-7 cm long, 5-9 cm wide, pubescent on both surfaces, cordate at the base, the margins with 8-11 irregular lobes broader than long. Heads ca 15, borne terminal on an elongate naked scape ca 55 cm high, the ultimate peduncles tomentose, with linear bracteoles, up to 15 mm long. Involucre narrowly campanulate, 5-6 mm high; bracts 8, glabrous or nearly so, keeled below, the apices with a fringe of cilia. Ray florets ca 8, yellow; ligules 4-6 mm long, 2-3 mm wide. Disk florets 12-16, yellow; corolla glabrous, ca 5.5 mm long, the tube 2.5-3.0 mm long, the throat funnelform, ca 1 mm long, the lobes 1.5-2.0 mm long. Achenes (immature) glabrous, ca 1.5 mm long; pappus of 50-60 white, fragile, ciliate setae 4-5 mm long.

TYPE: MEXICO. Durango: Mpio. de Mezquital, 3 km S de Sta. Ma. de Ocotan, 17 Oct 1984, M. González & S. Aoevedo 1558. (holotype, TEX; isotypes to be distributed by CIIDIR, Durango).

Senecio gonzalezae is closely related to the recently described S. sundbergii Turner from Nuevo Leon, Mexico. They are both perennial herbs with relatively few, subpalmately veined, leaves and both possess similar heads borne on elongate scapes. Senecio gonzalezae differs in possessing leaves with shorter petioles whose blades are broader than wide. It also has longer scapes, more carinate involucre bracts and florets with more elongate limbs.

The species will key with difficulty to Senecio kerberi Greenm. in McVaugh's (1984) Flora Novo-Galiciana, a poorly known species from Colima, Mexico which differs in numerous characters from the present taxon.

It is a pleasure to name the species for one of its only known collectors, Ms. Martha González who has assembled a fine collection of Compositae from southern Durango.